



MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal:

Piedmont Hill Timber Sale, #30-083198 and attached forest practice application #2609769 is a proposed three unit variable retention harvest and type 4 RMZ salvage. The proposed gross area totals 275.5 acres, with 230.5 net acres to be harvested. The sale is located within the Salt Creek and Lake Crescent Watershed Administrative Units in Clallam County approximately 15 miles west of Port Angeles. The harvest will generate an estimated 7,817 mbf of timber.

Approximately 4 acres of a type 4 RMZ, within unit 1, sustained extensive windthrow damage from a wind event during the 2007/2008 winter. Within the type 4 RMZ, only the outer zone will be salvaged.

Road activities associated with this harvest include:

- 9,283 feet of required new construction includes the installation of seventeen cross-drain culverts.
- 9,708 feet of required pre-haul/post-haul maintenance includes grading, shaping, and the installation of two cross-drain culverts.
- 3,706 feet of optional new construction includes the installation of eight cross-drain culverts.

Rock for this proposal will be acquired from on site sources (if available), DNR's Place Pit or an approved commercial source.

Description of mitigation: The following Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) procedures apply:

Northern Spotted Owl: (Procedure PR-14-004-120)

Not Applicable. While the proposal is within an owl area the proposal does not meet northern spotted owl habitat criteria and is considered non-habitat.

Marbled Murrelet: (Procedure PR-14-004-320)

The operation of heavy equipment in Place Pit will be restricted during the daily peak activity periods within the critical nesting season for marbled murrelets, in order to avoid disturbance of an occupied murrelet site within 1/4 mile. From April 1st to Aug 31st, no pit operations will be allowed 1 hr before to 2 hrs after official sunrise, then 1 hr before to 1 hr after official sunset. Timing restrictions will also be applied to the northeastern half of Unit 2, the northernmost corner of Unit 3 and along the PA-J-2000 (J-2000) and PA-J-2040 roads as designated on maps.

No part of the marbled murrelet habitat between units 2 and 3 was included in the sale. The northeast boundary of unit 2 was placed at an average of 165 feet from the occupied marbled murrelet habitat area.

Old-Growth Timber Harvest Deferral and Protection (Westside): (Procedure PR 14-004-045)

Unit 1's Weighted Old Growth Habitat Index (WOGHI) score indicated the need to field check the stand for possible old growth characteristics. An old-growth assessment was completed and no old-growth stands were identified. There were old-growth remnants identified in all three units. Most are marked as leave trees and will not be harvested however 23 will be cut for operational and safety reasons, none of these are large, structurally-unique trees. A proposed harvest unit to the east of Unit 3 was removed from the proposal due to the presence of over 140 old growth remnants over 350 years old.

Riparian and Wetland Management Zones (RMZ/WMZ): (Procedure PR-14-004-150)

One type 3 stream, five type 4 streams, nine type 5 streams, and one wetland greater than 1/4 acre but less than 1 acre are associated with this proposal. Approximately 20 acres were removed from harvest consideration as part of the 132 and 100-foot RMZ's applied to the Type 3 and 4 streams. The Type 5 streams are protected by yarding restrictions and leave tree areas. A 100-foot WMZ was applied to a wetland greater than 1/4 acre but less than 1 acre near unit 3.

Approximately 4 acres of a type 4 RMZ, adjacent to unit 1, sustained extensive windthrow damage from the wind events during the 2007/2008 winter. Within the type 4 RMZ only 2.5 acres will be salvaged which excludes the inner zone, a 25'

buffer from the stream.

Slope Stability: (Procedure PR-14-004-050)

The maximum slope found on site is 100%, however no surface indicators of shallow rapid failures were identified within this proposal. A Slope Stability Specialist performed a remote review and no indications of deep seated land slides were found. Proposed management activities will not significantly increase the risk of mass wasting in the general area. Lead-end suspension will be required where cable operations are used in an effort to minimize soil disturbance.

Retention Trees: (Procedure PR-14-006-090)

There are a total of 1,912 leave trees. Approximately two thirds of the leave trees are identified as clumps totaling 11 acres. The remaining one third of leave trees are left as individual leave trees scattered throughout the units. An effort was made to identify and mark all remnant old-growth trees.

Roads:

The following restrictions will apply:

- Marbled murrelet timing restrictions as listed above will apply to Place Pit if used,
- No construction, abandonment, pre- or post-haul maintenance or rock-haul between September 30 and May 1 without written permission from the contract administrator.

Cultural Resources:

No historic/prehistoric cultural values were observed in relation to the proposal site. Historical GLO maps and the TRAX report were reviewed and they indicate no environmental, ecological, or archeological concerns in the immediate vicinity of the proposed harvest.

Proponent: Department of Natural Resources -- Olympic Region

Location of proposal, including street address, if any:

The harvest units are located in Sections 1, 11, and 12 Township 30 North, Range 9 West, Willamette Meridian. DNR's Place Pit is located in Section 33, Township 31 North, Range 7 West, Willamette Meridian.

Lead agency: Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.

☒ This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from March 10, 2009. Comments must be submitted by March 24, 2009

Responsible official: John X. Viada
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Date: 3-2-09

Signature: John X. Viada

There is no agency SEPA appeal.

11/09/00